

Loew's Own Half Interest in 20th Century-Fox G-B Holdings

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RAY LEWIS
Editor and Publisher

THE LITTLE PAPER WITH THE BIG IDEAS
"Easy to Digest"

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December 26, 1936

GOOD NEW 1937



TO start the New Year off right, we say Good New 1937. If money and wages and bonuses are a criterion or standard, or measuring gauge of Prosperity, we are starting off

right.

Brokers are giving their employees a month's wages for a bonus. Industrial companies are dividing a percentage of the profits among employees. Dividends are being declared in Motion Pictures and other industries for the first time in many years. Bonds and preferred shares are returning to Before Crash values. Water is being squeezed out of Capitalization.

Of particular interest to shareholders of Famous Players Canadian Corporation is the announcement of a dividend increase. Famous Players Canadian Corp. is paying 60 cents per share on the common stock.

Paramount Pictures Corporation's declaration of dividend is of more personal interest to Canadian investors in picture stock, since there are close to a thousand Paramount shareholders in Canada, who exchanged their Famous Players Canadian shares for Paramount. At last it looks as if these shareholders are to reap some reward from the exchange.

Paramount Pictures Corporation has voted an initial dividend of \$12.00 on the first preferred and 60 cents on the 6% second preferred, both payable December 26th.

After a terrific battle of banking and financial interests, Mr. Adolph Zukor remains at the helm as supervisor of production at Paramount. Mr. Zukor was one of the original organizers of Paramount. This month he is celebrating his Silver Jubilee of Film activity!

The excellent theatre returns in Canada, for the operating companies, such as the Famous Players and its affiliated chains of theatres, Loew's Theatres, and the Independent Theatres,

are not due entirely to a spirit of prosperity which prevails, but the result of a Quality of Entertainment in Motion Pictures which has captured the public again, reawakening that old-time lure which Motion Pictures possessed in Ye Good Olde Silent Film Days.

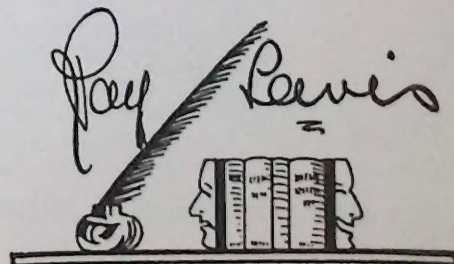
Pictures are again being held over for extended runs. And, now if nothing stops us — "nothing" is not quite the word to use for Government interference—and we cease to tear ourselves apart, by inside conflicts, it will be another Gold Strike for the Motion Picture Industry, with everyone in on the Gold.

It will be well for those who have the power within our Industry, to regulate the Business Ethics so that all share in the prosperity. Industries and Enterprises older, wealthier, more powerful than Motion Pictures are gone; those who have survived are here today with a new vision — Co-operation!

The old economics is being trimmed, just as a good tree is trimmed to save the tree of diseased boughs, infected leaves, etc. If need be in Tree Surgery the very Trunk receives treatment. So it is with our Economic System which has many rotten spots which should be removed.

The real men at the head of the Film Industry will observe, and be a part of the new Economic plan. Co-operation is the Big Idea, unless you prefer Fascism or Communism. There are no spoils either for the Offenders or Defenders in an Economic War, so choose wisely.

Sharing prosperity is just another expression of the Golden Rule, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you". It is so simple to understand, and the only Gold Standard which never lets you down, or changes its currency value.



RAY



RAY LEWIS

PRESENTS

THE annual dinner of the London and Home Counties Branch of the Cinematograph Exhibitors' Association was held at the Savoy Hotel, London, with K. A. Nyman, Esq., as Chairman.

This year the guests of honor were Sir Samuel Hoare, First Lord of the Admiralty in H. M. Government, and Major Tryon, postmaster-general.

Mr. Nyman, in introducing Sir Samuel, said, "My Lords, ladies and gentlemen, present tonight with Sir Samuel is the postmaster-general, Major Tryon, whom we are delighted to welcome."

"In view of the terrifying recommendation of Lord Moyne's Committee, some of you may feel that the presence of two Cabinet Ministers indicates the Government is doubly apprehensive where our industry may be heading; but may I allay your fears by suggesting Major Tryon's presence is a further demonstration of his genuine interest in films. After all, as head of the G.P.O. Films unit, he is both producer and renter and theoretically is eligible to join the K.R.S."

MR. NYMAN'S opening paragraphs covered the development of pictures from a crude beginning, its irresistible mass-appeal, following up to its present evolutionary process of being a "potent social force".

His comments on the opposition which Motion Pictures were obliged to combat, as presented by public welfare individuals, and organizations, who, "frowned because it lacked artistic tradition", was due to the fact thought Mr. Nyman, that it "emerged much too rapidly from the showman's booth, the peep-show and the converted shop, to a business with enormous capital and immense ramifications".

Motion Pictures emerged too rapidly to polish up the pioneers, explained Mr. Nyman, and yet this business of being self-made, revealed the qualities of "sturdiness, doggedness and toughness", which survived "the terrific antagonism, obstruction and criticism — official and unofficial" which the Industry received.

The speaker continued to paint his portrait of the Screen's progress through its swiftly-moving, but Silent Days, until — but permit me to use Mr. Nyman's own words — "Suddenly, when thirty years old, the film found its voice; you may recall that thrill, when the Screen

seemingly actuated by the same primitive instinct as a little child uttering its first word, yelled out 'Mammy'".

This idea of the screen yelling out, "Mammy" is a priceless presentation of fact, recalling to mind, Warner Bros., who first found the Screen's voice for us and Al Jolson, whose "Mammy" cry opened up more Treasure than that which followed the command "Open Sesame".

THE speaker proceeded then to introduce the Films (Quota) Act, the development of a greater public through reconstruction of old theatres into luxurious super-cinemas, the construction of picture palaces in which, "in the nine years which have since elapsed, the Industry has gone from strength to strength despite competition of all kind, until now some twenty millions attend our cinemas weekly".

In stressing the mass-appeal of Motion Pictures, the speaker said that the \$500,000 super-production is as readily available to the patron in a poor district, at an admission price of six cents, as it is to the patron who pays 85 cents in the popular district of London, termed the West End.

Mr. Nyman said, that there are about fifteen million weekly admissions of less than 25 cents, and of this number close to eight million pay an admission price of from 4 to 12 cents only.

"It is obvious we are catering to the masses, including the very poorest, and we assert we give them their entertainment under the highest conditions of safety and creature comfort."

The speaker followed the presentation of this social force idea, with his second argument of service in emphasizing "Motion Pictures as a unifying force of family life", providing entertainment to which the whole family can go as a complete unit.

THE third argument presented a record of achievement, and here Mr. Nyman started off his list with Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet", "As You Like It", "Midsummer Night's Dream"; Dickens' "David Copperfield", "Tale of Two Cities"; "Rhodes of Africa"; H. G. Wells' "Things To Come"; "Tudor Rose" ("Nine Days a Queen"); "Bengal Lancer"; "Mutiny on the Bounty"; "The Informer"; "Mr. Deeds Goes To Town"; "Green Pastures", to which introduction the speaker added "congratulations to Mr. Film Censor".

(Continued on Page 9)

British Studies Will Produce Three Queen Victoria Films. O Death, Where Is Thy Sting!

The
important part of
YOUR BOX-OFFICE
PLANS FOR 1937
is your 20th Century-Fox Contract!

¶ Week-after-week delivery of important money attractions during 1936 has won 20th undisputed leadership in the minds of the nation's showmen! ¶ If you are a 20th Century-Fox showman, your own records corroborate this! ¶ For early 1937 release, 20th gives you such pictures as: **"ONE IN A MILLION"**, already established as a musical smash... **"LLOYDS OF LONDON"**, proven two-a-day sensation, soon to start on its record-crashing, popular-price career... Irving Berlin's **"ON THE AVENUE"**, starring Dick Powell and Madeleine Carroll, plus a great cast, great songs, great dances...

"NANCY STEELE IS MISSING", powerful, incisive drama starring Victor McLaglen, Walter Connolly, Peter Lorre
... **"LOVE IS NEWS"**, co-starring Tyrone Power (20th's gift to America's women), Loretta Young, Don Ameche! ¶ That's only the flying start for the biggest year in 20th's history! We invite you to share in it!



THE KEYSTONE OF
YOUR FUTURE

Reviews and Previews

Loew's Theatre - Manager, Jules Bernstein

"Tarzan Escapes"

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer



"Jay L."

THE latest of the Edgar Rice Burroughs novels, "Tarzan Escapes", again presents Johnny "What-a-Man" Weissmuller in the familiar character of the Ape-man, with Maureen O'Sullivan as his mate. Chuckled full of animules, cannyballs, and jungle fever, this picture gives you plenty of entertainment of all kinds, with some real "hot" love scenes thrown in for good measure.

As the picture opens we see Tarzan and his mate, Jane, dwelling together in complete bliss, with the trees their homestead and the wild animals and savage tribes their friends. Into this beautiful picture breaks a certain Captain Fry, a villainous "Bring 'Em Back Alive" man, in whose safari are two relatives of Jane, who have come to fetch her back to the good old life of asphalt pavements and carbon monoxide fumes. Jane agrees to return to the civilized world in order to clear up an estate to which she has fallen heiress, but tells Tarzan that she will return as soon as said estate has been settled. In the meantime Captain Fry has ideas of his own, among which is the brilliant thought that he could clean up a fortune exhibiting Tarzan in a circus side-show. Tarzan however, also has ideas of his own, even if the ideas aren't in English, and none of his ideas include being shown in circus side-shows.

Tarzan's friends, the cannyballs, come to the rescue, and poor Captain Fry gets in an awful stew, and the cannyballs have the best intentions in the world of placing him in a real stew (yum, yum), and nothing Tarzan can tell them, can dissuade them. Finally Tarzan has to escape once more and enlist the aid of Tantor, the bull-elephant, and his brothers and sisters, and by means of a pleasant little stampede, the cannyballs have their minds changed for them, and Captain Fry is saved for posterity. Jane, needless to say, returns for some more "hot" love scenes with her mate.

In spite of the kidding tone I have used in telling the story, I really enjoyed this picture a lot. It was a refreshing change from the usual form of film entertainment, and as for the kids, they love it. You could give them a new Tarzan every week, and run a couple of them several times, and you would never hear a kick from the army of youth.

The last Tarzan picture is always the best Tarzan. Johnny Weissmuller and Maureen O'Sullivan are grand in their respective parts. Other satisfying performances are given by John Buckler as Captain Fry, Benita Hume and William Henry as Jane's relatives, Herbert Mundin as Rawlins, E. E. Clive as Masters, Derby Jones as Bomba, and above all, Cheetah, the monkey, as Cheetah, the monkey. That monk sees everything, hears everything and tells everything.

Loew's, Toronto, Entertained Under-Privileged Children with a BIG Show for Rotarians

Direction is by Richard Thorpe, with Leonard Smith behind the camera. Running time, approximately 90 minutes.

* * *

PERSONAL MUSINGS

IN the Chinese Suite of the Royal York Hotel last Friday, your reviewer had the pleasure of meeting Sir Guy Standing, distinguished English actor, diplomat and sailor, and had the extreme pleasure of munching a few dozen caviar sandwiches, and imbibing an excellent Scotch and Soda.

As for the *raison d'être* of the party, Sir Guy Standing, to me he is the most perfect example of that time-worn phrase, a distinguished gentleman. In other words, "CLASS, Oiwin, CLASS". Tall, well-built, with silver hair carefully groomed, and a toothbrush moustachio that immediately makes you wonder, Oxford or Cambridge?

Sir Guy's screen activities have been numerous, and in each role he has portrayed, he has distinguished himself. To mention just a few we might bring to mind "Lives of a Bengal Lancer", "I'd Give My Life", "Palm Springs" and now his latest success in 20th Century-Fox's "Lloyds of London".

Sir Guy's presence in the Queen City was in connection with the Silver Jubilee of Mr. Adolph Zukor, pioneer Paramount executive, who is celebrating this month his 25th year of association with Motion Pictures. Our best wishes to you Mr. Zukor, and when you celebrate your fiftieth year in Motion Pictures, we earnestly hope that we will be able to toast your health in Scotch and soda, and another two dozen caviar canapes.

Incidentally, we hear that 20th Century-Fox have passed a vote of thanks to Paramount for sending to Toronto and giving a party for, one of the leading players in their (Fox's) most important pictures. A certain Fox executive was rumoured to have said that he hoped Mr. Zukor would have a Jubilee every year, if he would send a distinguished British star to Toronto by way of exploitation, providing said star was appearing in a current 20th Century-Fox picture. Sir Guy Standing has an important part in "Lloyds of London".

* * *

At the time of this writing, the Uptown Theatre, Toronto, is closed for redecoration and installation of Dunlopillo seats. I understand that Jack Arthur has some original ideas in connection with the presentation of talking pictures, which he is intending to introduce. Any idea of Jack's will be good, we can promise you that!

* * *

Another theatre in Toronto closed for redecoration is the York, a small suburban house on Yonge Street near Bloor. This house is also undergoing a face-lifting, massage and body-overhauling, and will emerge in its beautified form shortly.

"Jay L."

Jack L. Warner, Vice-President, Presents A Survey of Warner Bros. Pictures

(Special to The Digest from the Warner Bros. Studios)

AT this time of the year it is only natural to stop and take stock of events during the past year.

Probably the most outstanding development during 1937 in the Motion Picture Industry, was the production of more important motion pictures by all companies than ever before in the history of the cinema. This was caused by the increased production budgets appropriated by the various companies following in the wake of a general economic improvement in which motion picture companies and exhibitors naturally shared.

Leading the Way

Warner Bros. can point with pride to the fact that during 1936, we again led the way with more outstanding, worthwhile pictures than any other company. Following our regular policy we again went off the beaten path in our selection of screen entertainment. The gratifying patronage by the public of Warner Bros.-First National and Cosmopolitan productions proved our policy a sound one.

During 1936 we released among many other successful pictures, "Anthony Adverse", "Gold Diggers of 1937", "The Charge of the Light Brigade", "Three Men on a Horse", "The Story of Louis Pasteur", "The Green Pastures", "A Midsummer Night's Dream", "The White Angel", "Ceiling Zero", "The Petrified Forest", "Cain and Mabel", "Give Me Your Heart", "Bullets or Ballots", "Dangerous", "China Clipper", "Sing Me a Love Song", "Earthworm Tractors", "Stage Struck" and "The Singing Kid".

Warner's 1937

For 1937 we have prepared an even more ambitious program — with greatly increased production budgets necessary to take care of the pretentious productions planned. These include "The Prince and the Pauper", by Mark Twain with famous Mauch Twins — Billy and Bobby — who scored so highly in "Anthony Adverse", — Claude Rains, Patric Knowles, Donald Crisp and many others; "The King and the Chorus Girl", presenting the idol of the Continent, "Fernand Gravet", teamed with Joan Blondell, Edward Everett Horton, Mary Nash, Luis Alberni and a large cast.

Reinhardt's "Danton"

Max Reinhardt's second production for us "Danton" — which will be produced on a scale and importance in keeping with the high position Max Reinhardt enjoys in the theatrical world.

England's courageous rogue who roamed the Sherwood Forest with his merry band will be present in "The Adventures of Robin Hood" in which Errol Flynn will play the role of Robin Hood.

"Green Light" another inspired novel from the powerful pen of Lloyd C. Douglas, author of "The Magnificent Obsession", will have Errol Flynn, Anita Louise, Sir Cedric Hardwicke and Walter Abel portraying the important roles. This picture has been completed and is now being scored by Max Steiner, premier music composer.

A James Oliver Curwood Technicolor

Another outstanding motion picture will be "God's Country and the Woman", a strong tale of the great outdoors by James Oliver Curwood in which George Brent and Beverly Roberts head an important cast. Pro-

duced entirely in Technicolor, "God's Country and the Woman", has been completed and held a preview audience enthralled.

Emile Zola's graphic fight for liberty and justice in the famous Dreyfus case which roused the world, will be portrayed in "The Story of Emile Zola", in which Paul Muni will have a role every bit as inspiring as the one he last did in "The Story of Louis Pasteur".

"Beethoven"

Europe's great music master — "Beethoven" — renowned for his immortal musical writings and also respected for his courage in fighting royalty and adversity, will live again in "The Story of Beethoven".

We will produce entirely in Technicolor, "The Desert Song", the fascinating, tuneful, romantic and adventurous operetta for which we have the most ambitious plans.

"Call It A Day", highly successful play on London, New York and other stages, is now in production with a brilliant cast headed by Olivia de Ravilland, Ian Hunter, Roland Young, Anita Louise, Frieda Inescort, Alice Brady and Beryl Mercer.

"Three Men on a Horse", the most successful comedy hit of the decade will be released in England in 1937 with Frank McHugh and Joan Blondell heading the cast.

James Melton, silver voiced tenor of radio and concert stage, Hugh Herbert, and Allen Jenkins, will be seen in "Sing Me a Love Song", strong musical comedy romance.

"Tovarich", "White Horse Inn", "Boys Meets Girl" and "On Your Toes", all tremendously successful stage plays here and abroad are scheduled by us for early production.

Bette Davis—"Marked Women"

Bette Davis, winner of the Academy award last year for the best performance by an actress will next be seen in a powerful story especially written for her called "Marked Women".

Kay Francis, Errol Flynn, Ian Hunter and Frieda Inescort will be seen in "Another Dawn", stirring story with strong military background and tender romance.

Kay Francis and Ian Hunter will also be seen together in another splendid picture called "Stolen Holiday", in a story with which everyone in England and Europe will recognize as torn from sensational newspaper headlines.

Pat O'Brien - Humphrey Bogart are teamed in a forthright, warm, human interest story "The Great O'Malley".

Ruby Keeler and Ross Alexander will provide the romantic interest in a sterling musical romance called "Ready, Willing and Able", adapted from the Saturday Evening Post story.

Edward G. Robinson will follow up his splendid work in "Bullets or Ballots" in "Kid Galahad", another Saturday Evening Post story in which Pat O'Brien will play one of the important roles opposite Robinson.

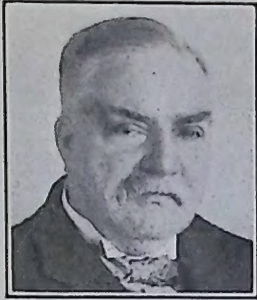
"Mountain Justice", strong, stark drama with Josephine Hutchinson, George Brent, Guy Kibbee and many others in a story torn from newspaper headlines.

"Black Legion", another sensational story inspired by recent revelations that shocked the world, will present Humphrey Bogart who even surpasses his outstanding work in "Petrified Forest".

(Continued on Page 10)

Hanson Theatre Corporation Building Theatres, Bayview, Toronto, and Timmins, Ont.

Conklin in Winnipeg



J. J. Conklin

THE outstanding event in theatre circles recently was the presentation by Royal Command of "Romeo and Juliet" in the Walker Theatre, which was directed by Lady Tupper and was attended by Baron Tweedsmuir and his official party. Shakespeare's tragic love story was capably presented and beautifully staged.

* * *

All Hollywood is talking about a fourteen year old Winnipeg girl with a beautiful operatic soprano voice which has matured like that of a woman's. Her name is Dianna Durbin and you had better learn to pronounce her name correctly, for after you have seen her first motion picture "Three Smart Girls" you'll want to talk about her. Hollywood's been talking about her for some time . . . ever since she sang at a social gathering months ago . . . and had every one asking, "Who is that marvelous child?" And marvelous child she is . . . for at 14 she has an operatic voice which former Metropolitan star, Andres de Seguro, calls one in the million . . . hundreds of indignant letters followed her first radio broadcast.

"When a woman has a voice like that, why claim she's only a child?" they protested . . . But there's a birth certificate to prove Deanna was born December 4, 1922 . . . in Winnipeg, Canada. Her father who was a Winnipeg financial broker, owing to poor health had to remove with his family to Southern California. Deanna learned to sing in Winnipeg as soon as she could talk, by the time she was 10, family began to realize her exceptional promise, elder sister Edith, nationally known as a fencer, arranged for lessons, and an operatic career was planned. There was no thought of moving pictures until her removal to the vicinity of Hollywood. Universal's Charles R. Rogers put her under contract; had "Three Smart Girls" carefully prepared for her first vehicle, groomed Deanna painstakingly for her film debut. Now his faith is being amply rewarded, for on the screen Deanna reveals even more than her remarkable voice, she is a scintillating little personality, with genuine acting ability. Growing up won't hamper her career, there'll be no awkward age for her, already 5 feet 2, weighing 100 pounds, she's the type that matures gracefully and gradually.

Throat specialists have pronounced her throat already fully developed, only change will be an increase in volume.

Lives with her parents in a Hollywood hillside home, attends the studio school, is o.k. in her lessons except for a little algebra trouble.

Four Canadian Theatres Open—New Royal, Woodstock; Capitol, Sarnia; Palace, Essex; Princess, Chatham, Ont.

GEORGE C. SASKETT, who left Winnipeg fifteen years ago to manage the two million dollar theatre in Los Angeles is now managing the Orpheum Theatre in Seattle and is desirous of extending a vaudeville circuit on the Pacific Coast which he is interested in, to Winnipeg, and is making inquiries for a desirable house; writing to the correspondent in Winnipeg he says: "We often read the interesting theatrical developments in your column in the Canadian Motion Picture Digest which we receive at our Vancouver office; and we watch every week to see what is doing in our business in this valuable magazine."

* * *

Mr. Fred Crosbie whose death occurred in Toronto recently, had many friends in Western Canada where for the past twenty-five years he had been connected with Motion Picture theatres and Film Exchanges. He had managed a theatre in Saskatoon in recent years but had mainly been connected with theatrical work in Winnipeg. For a number of years he was associated with Mr. Charles Stephenson, well-known film distributor. The death of his wife one year ago deeply affected Mr. Crosbie.

* * *

Mr. John Shuberg, interested in theatres in Vancouver, B.C., who has spent the past month in Winnipeg, returned home last week, after renewing many friendships with those with whom he had been connected in theatrical work for over thirty-five years.

* * *

Mr. Helmer Jernberg, who has been ill for a month, returned this week to the direction of his motion picture theatre, The Province.

* * *

"Beyond Bengal" has been held over for a second week at the Province Theatre. It is a most remarkable and genuine jungle picture.

* * *

The Osborne Theatre continues to show British pictures and is drawing people from all parts of Winnipeg. This week's showing is "Honors Easy".

* * *

The Dionne Quintuplets are being seen this week at the Metropolitan in "Reunion".

* * *

Katharine Hepburn is attracting unusual attention this week in "A Woman Rebels".

* * *

The Garrick this week is running a double bill, "Two in a Crowd", and "Parole".

* * *

The Lyceum this week is also showing a double bill, Joan Bennett, Cary Grant in "Wedding Present", also Martha Raye, Shirley Ross, Robt. Cummings in "Hideaway Girl".

* * *

THE Winnipeg Motion Picture managers and the Film Exchange Directors in Winnipeg, wish to convey to the Canadian Motion Picture Digest and its esteemed editor, Miss Ray Lewis, their best wishes for a joyous Christmas and a Prosperous New Year; and the same to their many associates in Toronto and Hamilton.

Washington Film Digest

*Special to Canadian Moving Picture Digest
by George W. Mehrrens, Columbia Trade
Press Staff Correspondent.*

WASHINGTON, D.C., Dec. 11 (CTP)

WITH the 75th Congress due to convene here in a little less than a month interest is beginning to centre on Capital Hill, and the prospects of new motion picture legislation as well as the possibility of reviving old bills discussed last session in committee hearings, and which will be re-introduced again when the new session begins.

The controversial question of block-booking and blind-buying, it is understood, will be one of the most important and therefore among the first to be taken up. Meanwhile reports reach Washington that the Sabath Committee investigating bankruptcy reorganization and receiverships, now meeting in Chicago, is due shortly to report to Congress recommending legislation on the basis of evidence discovered during its recent probes, with special emphasis on motion picture companies and theatre chains.

Little hope is given however, for the revival of the Copyright law controversy which covered some three months of discussion last session. The American Society of Composers apparently were more than successful in "sinking" the Duffy bill in committee just before the session closed. Bills not passed or having completed discussion during one session of Congress must according to the law of the land be re-introduced as new measures the following session and hearings begin all over again.

Representative Wright Patman, co-author of the famous Robinson-Patman anti-chain store act, has completed an amendment to the present act which would class motion pictures as a retail commodity and therefore subject to the mandates set out in the anti-chain store bill. While one official at the Federal Trade Commission told this correspondent it would be almost impossible to make such a distinction in connection with a motion picture film, it is nevertheless believed that the Texas representative will hold his ground and introduce the amendment when the new session meets.

* * *

AUSTRIA'S contingent agreement with Germany which makes allowance for the exportation of 14 motion picture films to that country during 1938 has been strictly observed, according to a report from the Commerce Department from Assistant Commercial Attache L. A. France, at Vienna.

Some Austrian producers, it is pointed out, were of the opinion that the number would be increased and as a result the entire quota was soon exhausted. As Germany refused to agree to any alteration of the contingent agreement, Vienna studios are for the most part inactive.

The limitation of 14 films the report states, will compel Austrian studios to produce only feature films of first quality in the future, since average pictures would not be profitable.

* * *

On the Television front developments and experimentation both on this side of the Atlantic and across the big pond have led to the belief that the new art, unlike the elusive prosperity of three years ago, is not quite so far around the corner.

Although there has been some difference of opinion as to when Television will enter the public domain on a commercial basis, the majority of experts are of the opinion that "it won't be long now".

Mr. William Priess, up in his New Jersey Laboratory, where he has developed a three and a

half foot scanner is still convinced he has the only marketable product, while engineers at R.C.A. Westinghouse, and the Philco Laboratories, all incidentally experimenting with the cathode ray, are equally as confident.

Reports continue to come into the Department of Commerce, from London, Berlin, and elsewhere where television experiments are being conducted revealing new developments in the art, and it appears to be a national race to see who will hit it first.

Motion picture leaders seen at the present time at a loss to make up their minds whether the new art will be a threat or a boon to their industry. Opinions on the subject have been many and varied and about equally divided as those on the question of Government production. Time alone will tell and with the coming year many developments can be confidently looked for.

Ray Presents

(Continued from Page 4)

But, let us proceed with the list of pictures as enumerated. Following "Green Pastures", "Thirty-Nine Steps"; "Ghost Goes West"; "Story of Louis Pasteur"; and let us not forget the G.P.O. Film, "Night Mail"; the G-B Instructional Films and Secrets of Nature; Disney Cartoons and that brilliant series, "March of Time".

Mr. Nyman pointed out that, "whilst we are proud that the Films Act has stimulated British production in nine years from 2% to 25% and, whilst we happily pay tribute to some of the grand productions that have emanated from our own studios, it is only fair to acknowledge the remaining 75% of films which reach us from America".

THE speaker congratulated the American Film Industry for bringing British history so often and so successfully to the Screen, and "incidentally, for teaching that eminent historian, biographer and film fan, Mr. Phillip Guedalla, the facts of history as he never learnt them at Oxford".

The attendance at the annual dinner and dance, was especially marked by the most representative assembly of American producers and distributors who have ever attended any gathering of British Exhibitors.

Last year, while I was in London, I had the pleasure of being present at the annual dinner, and heard H.R.H. The Duke of Kent, who was the guest speaker, deliver a most pleasing and interesting address. Since that time a great deal of British history has flown under the bridge; and H.R.H. The Duke of Kent is one step nearer The Throne.



Al Lichtman and Sam Katz become Vice-Presidents, Loew's

Australian Film Digest

by LEON S. STONE

THE annual report of the Federal Government's Film Producing Branch discloses its publicity films have been screened in 14 countries and on several ships of different steamship lines. The two latest subjects to be produced by the department deal with the activities of the post and telephone services and an aerial survey of pelagic fishes. Certainly a diversity!

"The need for a central visual educational bureau for Australia has been stressed in many quarters and definite requests have been made to the Commonwealth Government, for the establishment of one."

Special attention has been directed towards the production of colored scenic and educational films. A mass of information on the subject having been collected in America and England regarding the various marketable color processes. Many were found to be far too expensive, necessitating costly special equipment and trained operators. With a view to testing the possibility of obtaining world release of Australian educational color films the department has produced one short subject using the bi-pack (two-color) process. The negative is now being edited, but will have to be sent all the way to America for color prints to be made.

* * *

THE Last of the Mohicans" opened big in Auckland, New Zealand. Biz was the best noted locally for months in face of exceptional opposition from the Richard Crooks concert.

* * *

AS a birthday gesture to Adolph Zukor, founder of Paramount, week commencing January 7, 1937, there will be a simultaneous release in 300 key city theatres throughout Australia and the rest of the world of "The Champagne Waltz".

* * *

CHIEF Film Censor, Cresswell O'Reilly, dubbed "San Francisco", "Not suitable for general exhibition". American Legion of Decency rated it as entertainment for all. Australia and England ban "Green Pastures" on "irreligious" grounds, Canada is allowed to see it after protest. The usual consistency of censors!

* * *

COLIN HALL, Assistant Editor Fox Aussie Movietone Newsreel, back after a five months world tour, in which he visited London, Paris and New York offices of the reel. Made a close study of latest production, technical and editorial methods to impart to Aussie reel. Acted as assistant on British Movietone News.

In England newsreels are so popular, London alone has 14 newsreel theatres with a 15th building. London and New York experts considered the Aussie Fox Movietone reels the equal in photography and production values to any in any part of the world.

During a fortnight in Hollywood, Hall met Eddie Cantor who is definite that he will visit Australia in the future.

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ASSOCIATED PLAYERS has been formed with a £40,000 capital to produce films. Heading the concern are Claude Flemming, Frank Harvey and Miss Gladys Moncrieff. So far two talkies are planned. One starring Gladys Moncrieff, one of the world's leading singers, will be a musical. The other starring George

Wallace will be a comedy. Wallace was previously starred in three talkies by Efftee. As Harvey and Flemming have had extensive experience abroad in both film acting, production, stage and script work, the company should be far more than just another "fly-by-night" Quota projects that have a habit of springing up.

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With the death of Francis Wm. Thring, at Melbourne, recently, Australia has lost one of its outstanding film figures. He had only just recently returned from abroad on a business trip for his Efftee-Mastercraft interests so he was taken off the boat to the hospital. Since the age of 18 he had been actively associated with film trade. Born at Wentworth, New South Wales, Thring, was doing a stage conjuring and magical act when movies first attracted him in Tasmania. He operated one of the pioneer Biograph projectors at Max Kreitmeyer's waxworks in Melbourne. Persuading an associate to get an option on a plant, suburban shows followed with F. Griffith; and the huge Hoyts chain was formed. An entrepreneur also, he introduced many stage shows to Australia; the last starring Madame Delysia. He established Efftee Films which produced many silent and several pioneer Aussie talkies at his Melbourne studios. Thring was just on the eve on big things in connection with Efftee-Mastercraft in Australian Quota productions when death struck him down. Over 250 persons from all sections of the film trade and allied industries attended his funeral.

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RKO Sydney office finalised a huge picture contract with M. J. and J. P. Moodabe, governing and managing directors of Amalgamated Theatres Circuit of New Zealand. Deal constitutes complete RKO new season's line-up will go into the A.T. Circuit of 47 theatres throughout the Dominion in Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, Dunedin, Palmerston North, Invercargill and smaller centers.

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Religious bodies are out to suppress Sunday evening trade film previews at Melbourne theatres. No less than four were scheduled one recent Sunday in city theatres. Christian Observance Council is behind the move and are demanding Government legislation for the control of the matter.

A Survey of Warner Bros. Pictures

(Continued from Page 7)

Achievement!

The great number of these pictures described have been completed. A lot more are either in production or are ready for immediate production. There is no guesswork about all these pictures. Our optimism is not predicated upon what Warner Bros. hope to do — or hope to achieve, but what we have actually achieved.

The public insists upon getting better pictures every year. They patronized our pictures last year and it is Warner Bros. intention to keep faith with exhibitors and public by supplying only the best possible screen entertainment — we seek the greatest plays, the best books and stories.

These, with our recently expanded production facilities which gives us the largest and most efficient studio in the world, we turn into outstanding cinema entertainment.

George Lester, King's Theatre, Gave Theatre to Veterans for Children's Show and Party